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# THE XAVIER UNIVERSITY NEWSWIRE

Published since 1915 by the students of Xavier University

88th year, issue 14

week of DECEMBER 4, 2002

www.xavier.edu/newswire/

## Crosstown Shootout on the big screen

BY CHUCK SAMBUCHINO

Senior News Editor

There's no 4:15 a.m. line this year. No outrageous stampedes from one side of the Cintas Center to another. No lifeless, trampled bodies at which to stare.

The men's Crosstown Shootout, Xavier's annual basketball clash with its city rival the University of Cincinnati Bearcats, is at the sold-out Shoemaker Center this Saturday, Dec. 7 at 4 p.m.

With a lack of tickets for XU students,

many are left wondering how they can enjoy the much-anticipated clash of the titans.

Fear not.

Xavier's own Xtreme Fans have spearheaded a Crosstown Shootout viewing on Saturday in the O'Connor Sports Center. Doors will open at 3:30 p.m. unless battered down earlier.

"We've worked hard to make

*"In years past, there have been a lot of people who talked about putting something like this on so that all this students could come together and watch the game. We're expecting lots of people."*

— Alex Fajardo  
senior

this event happen," said senior Alex Fajardo. "In years past, there have been a lot of people who talked about putting something like this on so that all the students could come together and watch the game. We're expecting lots of people."

The free event will feature mountains of free food, a beer garden and cash bar, a professional halftime show and colossal screens on which to watch the game.

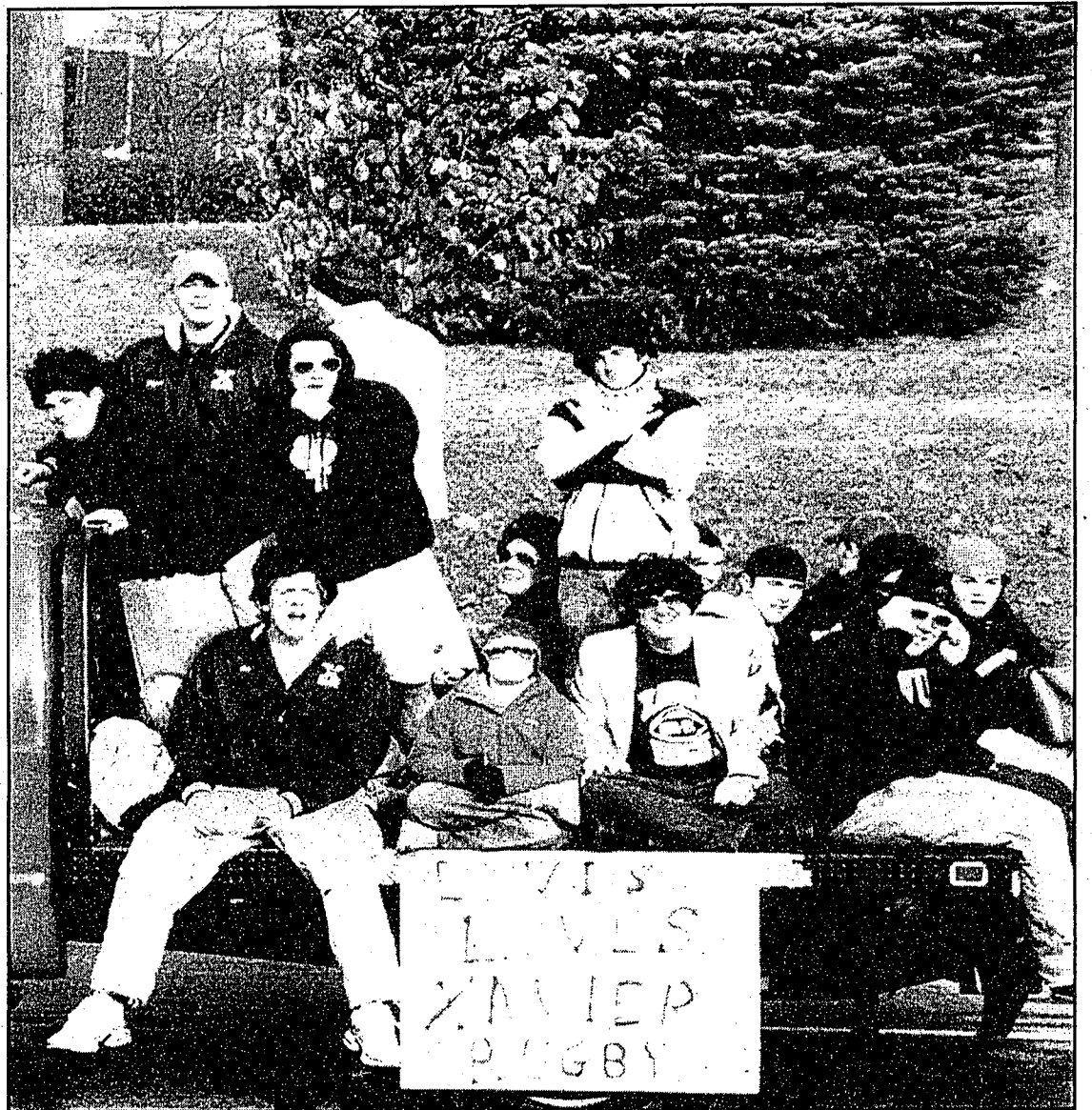
There will be prizes for best-dressed Musketeeer fans, not to mention a few lucky individuals who will get

a chance to hit a half-court shot for \$500.

Even though the Xavier fans can't converge at Cintas like last year, having an event with the pep band, beer and the usual assortment of loony fans will do the yearly event justice.

Those with questions can contact Fajardo at 745-5654.

## 'HOUNDDOGS' ON PARADE



NEWSWIRE PHOTO BY BRIAN ANGOLIA

Members of Xavier's Rugby team join the Homecoming festivities and take part in the Homecoming Day Parade.

## History comes alive for Xavier students, faculty

BY CHUCK SAMBUCHINO

Senior News Editor

Several Xavier students and teachers traveled to Europe in September on a 10-day tour of areas affected by the Holocaust, including the most notorious location of all, the Auschwitz concentration camp.

"This trip was about people coming together to personally reflect on the horrible things that happened there," said Professor Bill Madges of the theology department.

Those who attended the trip, both from Xavier and other locations, spoke of their accounts of

such a dramatic experience.

"This trip was more than seeing camps," said one female speaker. "It was about building relationships with people of a different background."

Before touring the concentration camps, the group spent a few days in rural Poland to envision pre-WWII Jewish life.

Much of the time was spent in the town of Szczepleszyn, which was revealed to be a place of great importance for speaker Rabbi Ingber.

The small town was where his father and thousands of other Jewish settlers were picked up by the

Nazis as the Holocaust began. Ingber's father survived. His father's parents were not as fortunate.

The tour around Szczepleszyn, held in the city's 650th anniversary year of being founded as a free city, included cultural enlightenment such as an in-depth tour of what was an old synagogue.

From there, it was on to the different camps that came to be collectively called Auschwitz.

At what was once a place of horror, there is now a Holocaust museum, which the memory of touring left many presenters speechless or choked up.

Speakers narrated as they showed slides of the base and what was left from the massacres — execution walls, prisoner mattresses, labeled briefcases and much more.

The collective congregation of people who were taking the tour and educating themselves were from many places, not just Xavier.

Multiple nationalities and religions crossed paths as they engaged in lectures, discussions and reflection.

"I've been to displays about the Holocaust in Washington, D.C., and that did nothing to prepare me for what I experienced ... Nothing I ever saw could have nearly pre-

pared me," said a female student.

When asked what the overall message was for Xavier listeners, there were a variety of answers.

"Find any way you can to understand another person."

"Tolerance is just the beginning. Go beyond it to celebration."

"It's real. It happened. It's beyond words and should never be forgotten."

"Build relationships across race and religion."

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Newsroom (513) 745-3122  
Advertising (513) 745-3561  
Circulation (513) 745-3130  
Editor-in-Chief (513) 745-3607

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## BRIEFS

Elizabeth Boneau, Editor  
News Room: 745-3122  
newswire-news@xavier.edu

## Muslim speaker

South Muslim scholar and visiting theology professor at the Brueggeman Center for Interreligious Dialogue, Dr. Farid Esack, will give his final United States presentation, "Rituals, the Sacred and Power in Islam," at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 4 in Kelley Auditorium. He is the author of a major work on Islamic Liberation theology, "Quran, Liberation and Pluralism." Farid has served as the Commissioner for Gender Equality in the South African Government since 1997-2001. The event is open to the public. Tickets are \$2 and will be available at the door. The benefits will be donated to Alternative Spring Break. The program is co-sponsored by Campus Ministry and Office of Multicultural Affairs. For more information, call 745-3567.

## Self checkout at the library

The library has introduced self checkout. Self checkout will hopefully reduce congestion at the circulation desk and permit busy patrons a quick way to check out materials during peak library use. Fully compatible with Xavier's integrated library system, self checkout accommodates videos as well as books and other materials. Self checkout is easy to use. It provides a dated receipt with a list of the items just checked out and their respective due dates. Also included on the receipt is the library's circulation telephone number and a link to self renewal <http://xplore.xu.edu/patroninfo/>. Report any problems to the circulation desk.

## Take back the night

How safe are you on campus? How do you help a friend who has been date raped? Where on campus can you go for support? Come to Alter 201 this Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 pm to hear Chief Couch, Sylvia Bessegato, VP of Student Development, and Lori Lambert, Head of Res Life talk about issues of campus safety, support services, and emergency procedures. It will be a panel discussion, so bring your questions! Sponsored by Take Back the Night. For more information, contact Alley at 924-5952

## Library canned food drive

Xavier University Library will accept canned goods and other non-perishable food items in payment for library overdue fines. One food item equals one dollar of fines. All items will be donated to local food relief organizations for the Christmas holiday. The food drive will run from Monday, Nov. 25 to Thursday, Dec. 18. Please see the circulation departments at McDonald Library or Lodge Learning Lab for details.

## Xavier to host first 'Relay for Life'

BY PAT STRUBLE  
Contributing Writer

In the spring of 2003, Xavier University will host its first ever Relay For Life. A kickoff rally will take place Monday, Dec. 9, at 5 p.m. on the stage across from Gallagher. There will be free food, drinks and prizes. The evening will conclude with a brief luminary ceremony in honor of those who lost their lives to cancer and the survivors who won their battle.

Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's signature event, which is a unique, empowering way to make a difference in the fight against cancer. Held in communities throughout the nation and around the world, teams of friends, family and co-workers join other teams for 18 hours.

During the event, team members take turns walking around the track to honor the courageous spirit of those battling cancer. Relay For Life represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day cancer will be eliminated.

At the Relay, the idea is to have fun while raising money to support American Cancer Society-funded research, and to provide services to cancer patients and their families.

At the heart of the Relay For Life is an opportunity to pay tribute to those who have battled can-

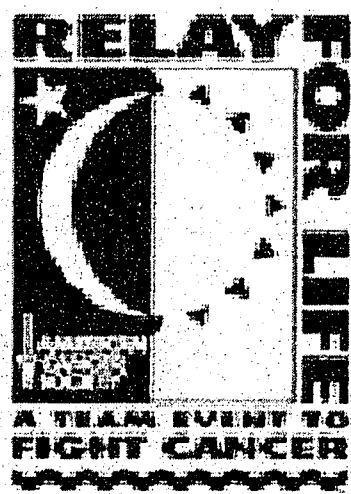
cer, both survivors and caregivers. A highlight of the event is the cancer survivor's lap. Cancer survivors take one lap together and finish to the applause and support of all Relay participants. This lap symbolizes the courage survivors and their families display and sustain in their lives.

Participants have another opportunity to recognize their

loved ones with the evening luminary ceremony. Lighted luminaries, sold by volunteers, are decorated with the names of cancer survivors and those lost to cancer. Placed around the track, they light the way for hope. It is during this

special ceremony that the true meaning of Relay For Life is experienced.

Xavier University's Relay For Life will start at 6 p.m. on April 4 and will end at 12 p.m. the next day. The event will include lots of free food, live music, giveaways, and prizes for as many things as we can think of. For more information please contact Pat Struble, Committee Chair, at 924-8270 or Ashley Stock, Committee Co-Chair, at 924-8223 or send e-mail to [xurelay@yahoo.com](mailto:xurelay@yahoo.com).



## RSA and Xavier Alliance change term of office

NEWSWIRE STAFF

The Resident Student Association and Xavier Alliance have changed the term of office for their Executive from an academic year to a calendar year.

The Student Senate approved the change in by-laws on Dec. 2, effective immediately pending SGA President Michael McBride's approval.

Reasons for the change include better transitioning between officers, reducing the workload for officers graduating in May, quicker start to the academic year in the fall, greater ability for students to participate in study abroad programs, and making votes count more for current as well as future residents.

This system has been proven extremely effective at Creighton University, which has this term for the student government executive officers.

The transition to the new system will occur in January. As part of the transition, current officers for both organizations will be allowed to retain or change their position in the Executive. The open positions remaining will be filled by an election.

For RSA, all residents are able to

run for Executive offices. Information on these elections is available online at the beginning of the spring semester. The election will be held on Monday, Jan. 27. All residents can vote.

For the Xavier Alliance, any person who is a member at the time of election can run for Executive offices. Elections for the Alliance will occur before the end of January. The voting membership will make the final decision.

"When you work through it, it is scary how much sense the idea makes," says Steve Weissenburger, President of the Resident Student Association and the Xavier Alliance.

"For a traditional undergraduate student, this allows for a maximum three solid years in office. It captures quality leaders at the middle of the academic year rather than the end, before they are lost to other groups.

Most importantly, it allows for effective transition given the outgoing officers remain local students for the spring semester after their term ends."

"I support this change as it will allow for continuity and flexibility and would, over time, like to see this become general practice for all SGA sponsored organizations," says Dr. Luther Smith, assistant Vice President for Student Life.

**The Newswire:**  
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**noise and da news**  
**every Wednesday.**

## Police Notes

Nov. 20, 1 p.m. — A lab instructor in the Biology department reported that a four-foot ball python snake was missing from the first floor of Albers Hall. The snake was found three days later under a desk.

Nov. 22, 6:45 p.m. — Campus arrested a non-student for criminal trespassing. The subject had an extensive criminal record.

Nov. 22, 6 p.m. — A contract employee in the Gallagher Student Center was found in possession of approximately five grams of marijuana. Employment was terminated.

Nov. 22, 11:15 p.m. — A hall director observed several students discharging fireworks near the north entrance of Husman.

Nov. 23, 1 p.m. — A non-student was arrested on an outstanding misdemeanor warrant when he was observed pushing a grocery cart on the residential mall. The subject was uncooperative and refused to give his ID.

Nov. 24, 1:30 a.m. — Campus Police responded with Cincinnati Police to a large disorderly house party in the 700 block of Fred Shuttlesworth. Approximately 300 students were dispersed and the party was ended.

Nov. 24, 3:45 p.m. — Campus Police cited a non-student for underage consumption when he was observed staggering through the Village parking lot.

Nov. 24, 10:15 p.m. — Campus Police responded with Cincinnati Fire Department to fire alarms in the Commons. An investigation revealed someone intentionally activated a pull down station in the front of the building.

Nov. 24, 11:55 a.m. — Campus Police assisted Cincinnati Police in apprehending a fleeing felon on University Drive. The suspect bailed out of a stolen vehicle on Victory Parkway and was caught hiding in the bushes in front of Logan Hall.

Nov. 25, 3:50 p.m. — A student on the third floor of Brockman Hall reported the theft of her violin and its case valued over \$4,000. A reward is being offered with a safe return. For more information, contact Campus Police at 745-1000.

## Police Note of the Week

Nov. 22, 9 p.m. — During the Homecoming Dance at the Millennium Hotel, Campus Police cited three students for possession of fake IDs and four students for underage consumption. One student was cited for disorderly conduct for returning to the dance after being escorted out for underage consumption.



# Investing in the Community

BY MELISSA MOSKO

Editor-in-Chief

When six Xavier students and five local high school students began the application for the Xavier Summer Service Internship (XU SSI) last spring, none of them really knew exactly the impact they would have on the community.

Working 35 hours a week at local service agencies and building a community amongst the other 29 interns was only the beginning of what would become the Greater Cincinnati Youth Grantmaking Council, gcYgc.

The seeds of the gcYgc began last spring, when a larger cross-section of the XU SSI attended a workshop put on by a philanthropic instructor from Northern Kentucky University. They continued their philanthropic studies throughout the summer, leaving their respective internship sites early on Wednesdays to come back for reflection sessions and class. The group examined everything about the non-profit world, from funding to staffing, and programming to government relations. Throughout the summer, the students in the philanthropy class found out exactly how their role as an intern in a Cincinnati service agency played out in their philanthropic work.

"The council members had the opportunity to submerge themselves in the entire cycle of community involvement," explains Gene Beaupre, director of the program. "They worked at a community-based agency and had direct contact with the clients. Then as part of a funding body, they examined how successfully agencies are fulfilling the needs of the community."

Half-way through the summer, and still learning about the world of philanthropy, these students began to apply their knowledge and craft their own grantmaking council.

This group, distinct in nature due to the ages and backgrounds of its members, decided to create service learning partnerships between local high schools and local service agencies to promote the development of youth advocates.

Early this fall, they wrote, edited, rewrote and sent out their RFP, a Request for Proposals. This was the first step in a process that

would take them into late November, investing nearly \$15,000 into the community. The group received nine proposals from different agencies throughout Cincinnati, all together requesting well over the allotted \$15,000 for the group.

Members of the council evaluated the agencies both quantitatively and qualitatively, visiting each agency, and examining each proposal carefully.

Decision time came around all too soon for this group of young philanthropists. At a retreat in early November, they narrowed the field to four agencies.

The group was able to fund four major projects in Cincinnati, those working with the homeless, Appalachian population, Spanish population and children.

The Greater Coalition of the Homeless and Mother of Mercy High School received \$5,000 for a project called: "Breaking down barriers: Students on Homelessness." In order to break down the stereotypes that perpetuate homelessness, the school and agency will publish a book created by Mercy students who will interview and write the stories of homeless and formerly homeless people. The GCH plans to include the book in an educational packet on homelessness to be used in the curriculum at local schools. In this manner, other youth can learn about the plight of the homeless through the words of their peers.

Su Casa Hispanic Ministry Center and Ursuline Academy received \$4,600 for a "Cross-Cultural Partnership." The fourth level Spanish class at Ursuline Academy will create a resource book in Spanish for Hispanics that will facilitate their integration into U.S. culture. This book will be distributed throughout the Hispanic community. Additionally, the two cultures will connect through monthly lectures on issues facing Hispanics and through joint service projects.

The Urban Appalachian (Appalachian) Council and St. Xavier High School received \$3,000 to create "Cultural Awareness through Theater and Education." St. X. drama students and Appalachian youth will use drama as a fulcrum to distinguish the under-recognized Appalachian culture. The drama students will tutor youth at its Lower Price Hill site and help these youth create and perform a skit that honors their culture during Appalachian Culture month. The St. X students will also honor the culture in the St. Xavier High School spring pro-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE SCHOELWER

Members of the gcYgc: row 1, (L-R): Marisa Brandstetter, Anne Schoelwer (advisor), Christopher Penna; row 2: Shana Kay, Lena Davie, Stephanie White, Karla Ball; row 3: Ryan McCafferty, Kendra Massey, Melissa Mosko, Joe Fullman and Timothy Donahue.

duction of "The Kentucky Cycle," a play about Appalachian life. After their experiences at the Urban Appalachian Council, these young actors will have an enriched capacity for portraying the characters in the play.

The Peaslee Neighborhood Center and Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy received \$2,025 for

"Science Fairs." CHCA Advanced Placement Chemistry class students will pair up with children from Peaslee's after school program to develop science fair projects during the spring of 2003. A science fair will be held in early May to assess the projects and get parents, friends and the local Over-the-Rhine community involved.

In retrospect, the members of the gcYgc view all of their hard work as more than just worth it. They see themselves as making a true investment in the community.

"Investing money in agencies is more than just investing funds," said Lena Davie, Xavier sophomore. "It is about investing your time, energy and commitment."



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## CITY LIGHTS Kalifornia

BY NICHOLAS SPENCER

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## XU'S TRRP AND RESIDENCE LIFE WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE

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FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE IN THE  
BULLETIN BOARD COMPETITION  
SUPPORTING NON-SMOKING AT XU!

CONGRATS TO YOU &  
THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED!!!

## Time to close Xavier?

Are we different? Are we any different than the other students up at Miami? How about over at UC? Dayton? Are we all the same? Should we be the same?

Maybe it's time for Xavier University to close down. If we are the same as the students at any other university, perhaps the Jesuits should refocus their efforts and leave the business of higher education.

On Wednesday, Nov. 21, David Gandolfo, a doctoral student of the University of Loyola Chicago, came to Xavier to speak about Ignacio Ellacuria's vision of what a university should be. In 1989, Ellacuria was the president of the University of Central America (UCA) in El Salvador when he and five other Jesuit priests were dragged from their beds and assassinated by the US-sponsored national military. Gandolfo was brought to Xavier by the Voices of Solidarity (VOS) to commemorate the anniversary of these Jesuit Martyrs.

"Is a Different Kind of University Possible?" This was the title of Ellacuria's 1975 report to the UCA's Board of Trustees. In it, he called for the creation of "a university that by its very structure and proper role is committed to opposing an unjust society and to building a new one." A university must act "universitarily," which means it must do what is appropriate for a

university — research, teaching and investigations. However, it must do so in a way that is fundamentally devoted to the elimination of poverty and the pursuit of a just society.

"The poor must be the horizon

*If we are the same  
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other university, per-  
haps the Jesuits  
should refocus their  
efforts and leave the  
business of higher  
education.*

of the university's activity," Gandolfo said, "To the point that the research interests and the curriculum are not to be dictated by the students or the faculty but by the interests of the poor." If a university is to be fundamentally devoted to the transformation of society, the curriculum and research must seek to identify, understand, influence, and, when necessary, replace societal structures and systems.

"Why do you care about the 3,000 victims of Sept. 11 but not the 3,500 children that starved to

death on Sept. 11, or the 3,500 children that starved to death on Sept. 12, or on the 13th?" Gandolfo asked. "It's a question of knowledge. At some level, it all comes down to knowledge and to what kind of knowledge we value."

Are we adopting Ellacuria's vision, or are we as a university merely cranking out levers for the machine? Xavier is right now in the middle of a comprehensive evaluation and strategic planning process.

Although I am confident that our administration holds the Jesuit ideals of "the service of faith and the promotion of justice" in the highest regard, I call on the university to not merely seek ways of integrating the "preferential option for the poor" into university policy, but instead to begin with the interests of the poor as the foundation and to conform all other interests to that fundamental purpose. Otherwise, if we as a university aren't fully committed to the poor, if we, the students, aren't any different than the students of any other university, then as Ellacuria stated, we might as well close up shop.

—Ben Krause  
Class of '03

## Iraq war a just war

The Nov. 20, 2002 letter to your editor, entitled "Jesuit Stance on Possible Iraqi War," missed a number of crucial points.

To begin with, following Desert Storm, the U.N. Security Council, on April 3, 1991, incorporated the terms of the cease-fire into Resolution 687. Since then, Iraq has ignored or evaded its legal obligations under this resolution.

Resolution 687 explicitly provided that a formal cease-fire would only become effective upon Iraq's "unconditional acceptance" of all the Resolution's provisions. These provisions outlawed Iraq's nuclear, biological and chemical programs. A state of war still exists. Conse-

quently, a strike against Iraq would, in terms of international law, merely continue the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq.

There are four other significant points which need to be considered:

1. The long history of classic just war thinking
2. The role of moral judgement in this thinking
3. Is international law being violated?
4. The proper roles of religious leaders and duty constituted public authorities in this debate.

Dr. George Weigel, Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C., has written on all four of all the above

points. He states:

"Classic just war thinking identified three kinds of 'just cause': defense against an aggression underway, recovery of something stolen or punishment for evil. Modern just war thinking has tended to limit 'just cause' to 'defense against an aggression underway.'

"Classic just war thinking begins not with the 'presumption against violence' suggested by some today, but with a basic moral judgment — that legitimate authorities have a moral obligation

to defend the peace. That kind of peace can sometimes be advanced by the proportionate, discriminate and strategically wise use of force.

"The just war tradition is not primarily a set of hurdles that religious leaders, philosophers and theologians set for statesmen to jump over. Rather, it is about ends as well as means — it is a time-tested way of moral reasoning about how prudent statesmanship advances the peace of order that is composed of justice and freedom.

"So the proper role of religious

leaders and public intellectuals is to help clarify the moral issues, while recognizing that the final burden of moral responsibility lies elsewhere — with the duty constituted public authorities, who are more fully informed about the relevant facts and who must bear the weight of responsible decision making."

—Peter B. Webb  
Professor Emeritus

THE XAVIER UNIVERSITY

## NEWSWIRE

Lena Davie, EDITOR

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- STAFF EDITORIAL -

## Crosstown Showdown

It's that time of year when Jack Frost nibbles at your nose, children build snowmen, and college students from UC and Xavier try to prove their superiority over one another. Ah, the Crosstown Shootout — the nation's fiercest intra-city rivalry. Instead of listening to the nonsensical chants at Saturday's game, we at the *Newswire* decided to break down the rivalry, point by point.

First off, let's examine the actual campuses. UC boasts a large, urbanized campus with plenty of construction and large, gray buildings that all look the same. Well, except for the Arnoff Center for Design and Art, which sits on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, and looks like Dr. Seuss himself designed it.

Xavier's campus is small, efficient, and prolific with the dazzling architecture of Hinkle Hall, Buenger Hall and the Gallagher Student Center. The foliage and soil is maintained on a 22-hour per day basis by the diligent Physical Plant crew. Despite the lack of a medical and law school, after one round we score it Muskies 1, Bearcats 0.

Moving on to the very measuring stick of society, college basketball, we take a look at how the schools measure up on the court. Xavier has one of the highest graduation rates in the country for its athletes, including basketball players. The Bearcats, under nationally-recognized coach Bob Huggins, have had their share of

problems graduating players and have come under recent scrutiny because of the apparent lack of focus on student-athletes.

The two schools are as night and day as possible. Xavier is the upstart program with a lot of heart and a reputation for playing hard-nosed basketball. UC is the typical heel, dressed in black and equipped with athleticism and swagger. No matter what Xavier is ranked coming into the Shootout, a Muskie win is always considered an upset over the perennial Conference USA Champions. If Xavier is David, its Goliath certainly lives somewhere in Clifton.

As far as on-the-court success goes, the Bearcats have reached the

NCAA Elite Eight three times since 1992, while the Muskies have made just one trip to the Sweet 16 in the '90s. Last season, both teams fell to their second-round oppo-

nents in the NCAA Tournament. While Xavier has held a firm grip on the past six meetings, winning four, we score the basketball programs even this year.

When it all boils down, there is no real decisive winner in this battle. Xavier has the academic standards, the scholar athletes and a rich Jesuit tradition. Meanwhile, UC has a football team with a guy named Gino. The only real way to settle this dispute is on the court. As a great man once said "someone's always the better team on paper, but that's why they play the game." Fortunately, we all get to play witness to that game on Saturday.

*When it all boils down, there is no real decisive winner in this battle.*

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The *Xavier Newswire* is published weekly throughout the school year, except during vacation and final exams, by the students of Xavier University, 3800 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45207-2129.

The statements and opinions of *The Xavier Newswire* are not necessarily those of the student body, faculty or administration of Xavier. The statements and opinions of a columnist do not necessarily reflect those of editors or general staff. Letters may be edited for clarity, content or space.

Subscription rates are \$30 per year or \$15 per semester within the USA and are prorated. Subscription inquiries should be directed to Melissa Mosko, 513-745-3067.

Advertising inquiries should be directed to Lisa Warner, Advertising Manager, 513-745-3561.

One copy of *The Xavier Newswire*, distributed on campus, is free per person per week. Additional copies are 25 cents.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## Listen to the Vets

A veteran myself, I agree with Sgt. Jason W. Sharp (article published in *The Newswire's* Nov. 20 edition) that we should care about veterans. One way of caring about veterans is to listen to them.

Below is a statement of veterans of the Gulf War:

"We, the undersigned veterans of the Gulf War, seek to inject common sense into the debate over a possible U.S. war against Iraq by placing the debate in the context of safeguarding our liberty, constitutional values and our freedom."

As veterans, we know firsthand the effects of war, and the meaning of sacrifice. The decision to go to war is a serious one which could have far-reaching and unforeseen effects for Americans. To protect American troops and American citizens, we seek the following goals:

1. Congress must authorize an invasion of Iraq through a formal Declaration of War, as required by the U.S. Constitution.
2. The Congressional and public debate should examine whether an invasion of Iraq would further destabilize the region, cause more terror attacks against the United States, distract us from the war against terror, or lead people to join anti-U.S. terrorist organizations.
3. Because troops returning to battle may be exposed to many of

the same dangers we faced in 1991, returning veterans must have full and immediate access to the Department of Veterans Affairs when they return home, including health care, readjustment counseling and disability benefits if needed.

4. The Administration should make public information to justify its claim that Iraq poses a direct threat to the United States, requiring an invasion.

5. In keeping with separation of powers in our Constitution, we seek Congressional oversight of the conduct of any war.

6. In keeping with our international law, any war with Iraq should include authorization from the United Nations Security Council. The US should also seek and obtain broad assistance from other nations.

7. Before sending Americans into combat, the U.S. government must make a full and complete accounting for all those missing in action in the Gulf War since Aug. 2, 1990."

If we listen to these veterans, perhaps we will realize that the spiritual leaders of the Society of Jesus who caution against a war with Iraq have given us much to reflect upon.

—Fr. Benjamin J. Urmston, S.J.  
Peace and Justice Programs

Additional improvements  
for campus roads

Your suggestions for improvement on the roads around campus might also include speed bumps on Herald and Ledgewood Avenues, where cars routinely approach 40 mph. On many college campuses, students on bicycle and on foot are not in danger of speeding cars because of the speed bumps placed around their campuses to ensure the safety of all pedestrians.

Ledgewood and Herald are used frequently by drivers who are trying to save time by going around the Dana and Montgomery intersection. These drivers are endangering the lives of all persons on campus by their reckless driving. Speed limits have been set at 25 mph, but every day there is some form of reckless driving observed on campus.

—George Feldick  
Class of '04



## DOC TALK

Dear Doc,

I've got an itch. I think it's jock itch. What should I use to make it go away?

Signed,

Itchy and Scratchy

Dear Itchy,

This is caused by fungal infection of the skin. Try over-the-counter Lamisil cream. It heals up, then keep the area dry after showering to minimize recurrence. If it doesn't clear, see a physician.

Dear Doc,

What can I do to prevent colds this winter?

Signed,

Immune One

Dear Immune,

You can prevent illnesses by washing your hands, eating well, and getting plenty of rest. If you do get sick, cover your mouth and nose when sneezing and coughing around other, all those things our moms told us to do.

Dear Doc,

I was told that I'm a little anemic. Does that mean that I have something like sickle cell anemia?

Signed,

Anemic

Dear Anemic,

The most common type of anemia is due to iron deficiency. Specific blood tests can identify the type of anemia.

Questions answered by Dr. James P. Konerman, the medical director of the Health and Counseling Center and graduate of Xavier University. Questions for Doc Talk can be dropped off at the Health and Counseling Center or emailed to [jpkonerman@xavier.edu](mailto:jpkonerman@xavier.edu).





## BRIEFS

Steve Metzger, Editor  
Sports Desk: 745-2878  
newswire-sports@xavier.edu

Crosstown  
Countdown

The X-treme Fans are hosting their second annual Crosstown Countdown starting Dec. 3 and ending with the Crosstown Shootout on Dec. 7. The schedule for the week is as follows:

Wednesday: Skyline Chili eating contest @ 5 p.m. on the residential mall. Any student can come to be in the contest or just come out to watch their fellow students stuff their faces full of chili. Prizes will be awarded for eating the most chili.

Thursday: Xavier basketball scavenger hunt @ 7 p.m. outside of Cintas. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place. Teams will consist of 3 to 4 students.

Friday: Balloon Launch @ 4 p.m. on the academic mall. Any student can come take their anger out on UC by launching water balloons at a target with the UC logo on it. Students that hit closest to the target will win prizes.

Saturday: Crosstown Shootout Party. Students can come watch the Crosstown Shootout in O'Connor Sports Center on a big screen. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. There will be free LaRosa's and Skyline, and a beer garden for those who are 21 with a valid ID. Halftime show will feature the Frisbee dog. Also, one lucky Xavier student will have a chance to make a half-court shot worth \$500.

Women's basketball  
promotions

On Saturday, Dec. 7, the first 30 Xavier students through the door of the game versus Central Connecticut State will receive a free Invitational T-shirt. Students can possibly win gift certificates from Everybody's Records, Skyline Chili, and O'Bryon's Irish Pub, plus many other prizes. Tip-off is at 1 p.m. so get there early. The halftime performance will feature Sandy "Spin" Slade, a world-renowned basketball handler.

On Sunday, Dec. 8, the first 50 Xavier students through the door of the second round game of the Provident Bank Xavier Invitational will receive a free Invitational T-shirt. There will also be prizes from Kroger, LaRosa's, The Running Spot, Pringles, and the Anthoy Muñoz Foundation, plus much more. The halftime performance will feature the Frisbee Dogs.

# Muskies fall to Stanford, rebound against Florida A&M

BY DAVE GILMORE  
Asst. Sports Editor

After two exhibition wins and a convincing home opener against St. Peter's, the men's basketball squad advanced into the second round of the Owens-Corning Preseason NIT, as well as opened their non-conference schedule against the Rattlers of Florida A&M.

The Muskies would travel to Stanford for a contest broadcast on ESPN2 that would serve as their first major test this season. After dropping the Stanford game in down-to-the-wire fashion, the team would rebound for a strong win over Florida A&M on homecoming weekend.

## XAVIER 62, STANFORD 63

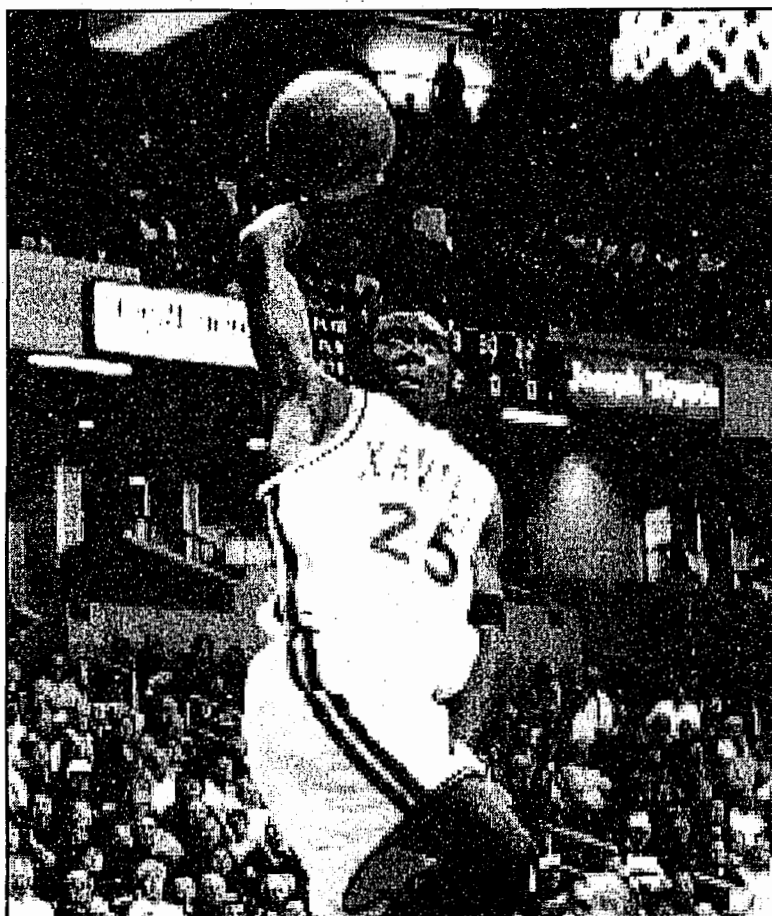
The Xavier men's basketball team was dealt a 63-62 defeat by the Stanford Cardinal late Wednesday night in the second round of the Preseason NIT.

The Musketeers trailed for most of the contest, and never led by more than two in the game.

A Cardinal three at the 7:51 mark gave the Cardinal a 53-51 edge, and an advantage they would never relinquish.

Stanford led by as many as five, but the Musketeers closed to within one, at 61-60, with 1:51 remaining on a drive by Senior Lionel Chalmers.

Chalmers again scored on a floater with 12 seconds left to make it 63-62, but the Musketeers were



Sophomore Keith Jackson throws down for two of his nine points in the rout. NEWSWIRE PHOTO BY BRIAN ANGOLIA

unable to foul Stanford on the ensuing possession, allowing time to expire.

Chalmers led Xavier with 20 points, 16 of which came in the second half. Sato added 15 to go with a game-high 10 rebounds for his seventh career double-double. Senior David West scored 19 points to go with eight rebounds.

## XAVIER 93, FLORIDA A&M 64

The Xavier men's basketball team rolled to a 93-64 win over Florida A&M behind five double-figure scoring efforts on Sunday at the Cintas Center.

West led Xavier with 19 points while Sato and Chalmers each added 16 points for the Musketeers.

The Musketeers led 16-7 six minutes into the game after hitting seven of their first nine shots.

The Musketeers continued to stretch their lead in the second half, building the advantage to as many as 40.

Xavier used its speed to beat the Rattler full-court press and to score in transition. XU scored 33 fast break points in the game, compared to four tallied by Florida A&M.

The rebounding battle was also dominated by Xavier, 50-23. West and Sato led the effort on the boards with 12 each.

Xavier got 29 points off its bench in the game, including 10 each from senior Dave Young and junior Anthony Myles.

Freshman guard Dedrick Finn made his first career start and scored six points while grabbing six rebounds and dishing out a team-high seven assists. Chalmers added six assists for the Musketeers.

Sophomore swingman Keith Jackson wowed the capacity crowd with an amazing dunk for two of his nine points scored in 15 minutes of playing time.

Florida A&M was led in the game by Dominique Jackson's 20 points.

The Musketeers travel to the other side of the city to take on Cincinnati in the annual Skyline Chili Crosstown Shootout on Saturday at 4 p.m.

**The Muskies downed Purdue 74-59.**  
**Read all about it**  
**in next week's Newswire.**



## On Tap



Wednesday, Dec. 4

• No games scheduled.

Thursday, Dec. 5

• Men's and Women's Swimming at Zippy Invite (Akron, Ohio) 9 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 6

• Men's and Women's Swimming at Zippy Invite (Akron, Ohio) 9 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 7

• Men's and Women's Swimming at Zippy Invite (Akron, Ohio) 9 a.m.

• Women's basketball vs. Central Connecticut State (Provident Bank Xavier Invitational) at 1 p.m.

• Men's Basketball at Cincinnati (Skyline Chili Crosstown Shootout) 4 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 8

• Women's basketball vs. Michigan/St. Louis (Provident Bank Xavier Invitational) at 1 p.m. (Consolation game) or 3 p.m. (Championship Game)

Home basketball games are held at the Cintas Center.

Home games are in bold.

## GAME of the WEEK

Men's Basketball at  
Cincinnati  
Saturday, Dec. 7  
4 p.m.

The No. 16 Muskies take on the Bearcats in the annual Skyline Chili Crosstown Shootout. Xavier has won four of the past six Shootouts, despite a tough loss in the first ever shootout in the Cintas Center.

The game will be televised live on ESPN from the Shoemaker Center. No tickets have been made publicly available to Xavier students.

## Volleyball has tough finish in A-10 Tourney and C-USA Challenge

BY STEVE METZGER  
Sports Editor

The volleyball team closed out its season this past weekend. After losing to Temple in the semifinal of the A-10 Championship, they traveled to Dayton to participate in the A-10/C-USA Challenge and dropped two games to Louisville and rival Cincinnati over the Thanksgiving weekend.

### XAVIER 1, TEMPLE 3

The Muskies fell to Atlantic 10 Regular Season Champion Temple in the first semifinal match of the 2002 A-10 Volleyball Championships at the Cintas Center.

The Musketeers were looking to become the first team since Temple to defend an Atlantic 10 Title. The Owls won the A-10 Championship in 1997, 98 and 99.

Temple won the rematch of last year's A-10 Championship behind the strong play of the All-Conference duo of juniors Yamit Haba and Xu Yun who each had double-doubles for the Owls. Haba finished with 19 kills and 12 digs while Yun tallied 17 kills and 15 digs.

The Muskies countered with 16 kills from All-Conference middle blocker junior Kimberly Cockerel and 10 kills by freshman Katie Duchek, but it was not enough to overcome a 73-40 advantage in kills for Temple.

The Owls who also had 16 kills

from Liu Shu and 10 by Charity Hill, were paced offensively by the Atlantic 10 Setter-of-the-Year Allison Runk who finished with 60 assists on the night.

The Musketeers played well on the whole, taking game three, 31-29. However, they could not keep up with the number of kills earned by Temple. The major reason for the Owls' victory was their ability to dig compared to Xavier's. Temple had a 64-44 edge in digs as four Owls finished in double figures. Yun led the way with 15 while Margaret Majewska added 14 to go along with Haba's 12 and Runk's 11.

### XAVIER 0, LOUISVILLE 3

The Xavier volleyball team fell to C-USA Regular Season Co-Champion Louisville, 3-0 in the first match of the A-10/C-USA Challenge.

U of L was led by Lena Ustymenko, who had 16 kills and 12 digs as the Cardinals out-hit the Musketeers .306 to .078 in the match.

The Muskies had its most productive day offensively from sophomore Laci Hasenour with nine kills and senior Katey Wygant who finished with seven kills.

In just her second career start as a setter, freshman Carley Horvath dished out 27 assists on Xavier's 32 kills in the match.

Defensively, the Muskies were led by freshman Jordan Brightwell, who tallied 10 of the Musketeers' 39 digs.

### XAVIER 0, CINCINNATI 3

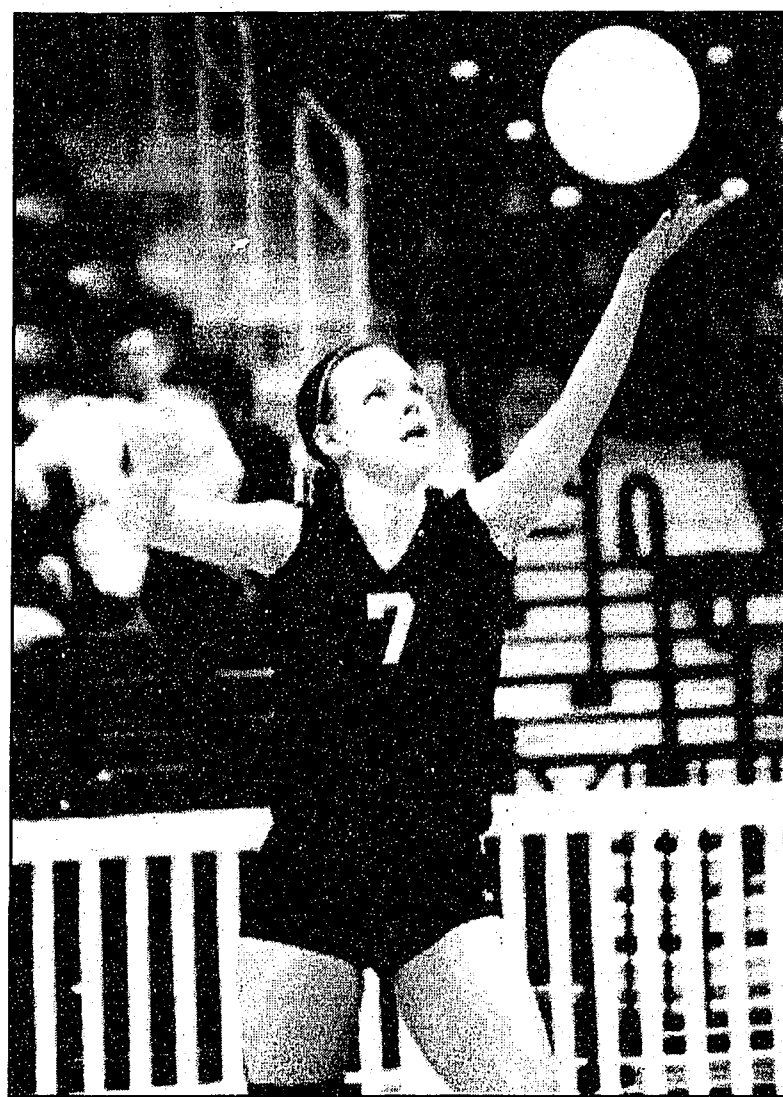
The Musketeer volleyball team ended its season with a loss to crosstown rival Cincinnati in the A-10/C-USA Challenge by a score of 3-0 last Saturday.

Wygant went out with a strong performance in her last match in a Musketeer uniform with a double-double of 11 kills and 12 digs to lead Xavier in each category. She ends her career with the fifth most career block assists (354), the 10th best career hitting percentage (.242) and the 11th most kills (1,177) in school history.

Cockerel added 10 kills of her own for Xavier, but the Musketeers were out-hit .464 to .156 behind three Bearcats who reached double figures in kills.

Cincinnati's Trish Laudsaw had a match-high 19 kills while Julie DuPont and Bonita Wise each tallied 14.

The Musketeers ended their season with a record of 16-16. It is always difficult to come back and upset a team twice in a season, especially in the span of a week. They put on an impressive showing for a team with just three seniors and one junior. The future looks bright for Xavier volleyball.



NEWSWIRE PHOTO BY BRIAN ANGOLIA

Sophomore Molly Martin and the Musketeers faced tough opposition in the Atlantic 10 Tournament and the A-10/Conference USA Challenge.

## Women's basketball wins two of three to start season

BY STEVE METZGER  
Sports Editor

The women's basketball team opened their season this past week, traveling to Pepperdine and then participating in the Coors Rocky Mountain Invitational at Colorado State.

They returned to campus with a 2-1 record for Kevin McGuff in his first season as head coach.

### XAVIER 62, PEPPERDINE 54

Freshman Tara Boothe led the Musketeers with 19 points as the women's basketball team won its season-opener 62-54 over Pepperdine on Friday. Xavier started strong in the contest, then pulled away late to claim the victory.

From the opening tip, Xavier set the tone with its defensive play. After Pepperdine jumped out to a quick 7-1 lead in the first three minutes of the game, Xavier stormed back by scoring 12 unanswered points, all off Wave turnovers.

At intermission, Xavier held a 31-30 lead.

Senior Reetta Piipari responded for Xavier with a three at the 1:57 mark to put the XU lead at four, 56-52.

Piipari scored 16 points and senior Amy Waugh added 10 for the Musketeers. Freshman Kristy Wallner led Xavier's rebounding

efforts with nine in the game. Sophomore Alexis Henderson added eight points and five rebounds.

Shanell Law led the Wave with 12 points. Pepperdine committed 14 turnovers in the contest, six of which came off Xavier steals.

### XAVIER 80, UL-MONROE 61

A 20-point second half from Waugh led Xavier past Louisiana-Monroe in the opening game of the Coors Rocky Mountain Invitational at Colorado State on Friday.

Waugh led Xavier with 28 points in the contest. Piipari added 14 points for the Musketeers. Boothe, scored 14 points while grabbing nine rebounds.

ULM jumped out to an 8-2 lead with 17:40 left in the first half. The Musketeers quickly responded with a 9-0 run to go up 11-8 with 15:51 left in the period.

But the Lady Indians regrouped, and behind superb shooting took a 27-17 at the 7:15 mark. At that point, ULM was 11 for 16 from the field.

Xavier clawed back into the contest, and trailed 35-32 at half-time.

Waugh ignited the Musketeers after intermission, scoring 13 points, including three three-pointers.

Xavier entered the championship game having won three in-season tournaments in the past three seasons.

### XAVIER 64, COLORADO ST 68

Piipari and Waugh became members of the Xavier women's basketball 1,000 Point Club in a 68-64 loss to Colorado State in the championship game of the Coors Rocky Mountain Invitational on Saturday night.

Waugh led Xavier with 18 points in the game while Piipari added 12. Both Piipari and Waugh were named to the All-Tournament Team.

Piipari became the 16th member of Xavier's 1,000 Point Club with a three-point shot from the left wing with 7:33 left to play in the first half that put her right at the millennium mark.

Waugh became the 17th member of that club when she connected on the first of three free-throw attempts with 13:53 left in the game. With the game's output, Waugh has 1,005 career points while Piipari has 1,004.

A pair of Boothe free-throws gave the Musketeers the lead back at 45-44 with 13:36 left to play. XU built the advantage to three, at

49-46, with 12:13 left to play, but the Rams answered with a 13-0 run to go up 10, 59-49, with 7:51 left.

With three assists in the contest, Piipari moved into second place all-time in Xavier history.

CSU's Lisa Narkiewicz had 10 points and was named the Tournament MVP. Ashley Augsperger was also named to the All-Tournament Team after leading CSU with 16 points.

## A-10 Champs crowned at Cintas

BY STEVE METZGER  
Sports Editor

The final of the A-10 volleyball championship was held at the Cintas Center on Nov. 22. George Washington, who had defeated Dayton the night before, squared off to see which one would earn a trip to the NCAA Tournament.

George Washington looked at the start to be on the verge of pulling an upset as they took the first game, 30-20. However, Temple roared back in game two with a

hitting percentage of .391, taking the game by a score of 30-23. In that game, the Owls put up 21 kills to the Colonials' 13.

The Colonials would not back down though and after trailing for most of game three, came back to within one point. It proved to be just not enough as Temple won the match, 31-29.

Temple also led game four for the majority of the time until GW went on a 7-0 scoring run and tied the game at 19-19. Then the two teams matched each other point for

point before Temple took the lead, 29-26. A kill by Liu Shu gave Temple the 30-27 victory and the championship title.



TEMPLE OWLS  
2002 ATLANTIC 10  
VOLLEYBALL  
TOURNAMENT  
CHAMPIONS



## BRIEFS

Dan Cox, Editor

Diversions Desk: 745-2878

xudivers@hotmail.com

## 'A Christmas Carol'

Gradison McDonald and KeyBank present "A Christmas Carol" at the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. Now in its 12th straight year, "A Christmas Carol" runs Dec. 4 to Dec. 30 in the Playhouse's Robert S. Marx Theatre.

Adapted by Howard Dallin, "A Christmas Carol" is a retelling of Charles Dickens' classic tale of a miserly sinner given one last chance at redemption by four persuasive spirits.

Those who purchase tickets to "A Christmas Carol" can purchase \$15 tickets to selected performances of the Cincinnati Ballet's "The Nutcracker" and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra's "Home for the Holidays."

Tickets for "A Christmas Carol" are on sale now. Prices range from \$33-\$45, depending on day and seat location. Any unreserved tickets are half-price every day when purchased at the Playhouse between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on the day of the show.

For tickets or more information, call the Playhouse box office at 421-3888. Tickets can also be purchased on the Playhouse Web site at [www.cincyplay.com](http://www.cincyplay.com).

## Tracy Walker

The Know Theatre Tribe is presenting Tracy Walker, solo recording artist on Sunday Dec. 8, 5-9 p.m. at Mr. Pitiful's 1323 Main St.

Walker is performing the concert for the Know Theatre after playing earlier this year in March. Tickets are \$15 or free with purchase of Know Access Subscription (\$60). There will be free food and admission includes a drink ticket.

For more information or reservations, call 300-KNOW or email at [info@knowtheatre.com](mailto:info@knowtheatre.com).

## James DePriest

Maestro James DePriest, Music Director of the Oregon Symphony since 1980, returns to the Music Hall podium for two concerts with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra on Dec. 6 at 11 a.m. and Dec. 7 at 8 p.m. Guest pianist for these concerts is the 1998 Tchaikovsky International Competition winner Denis Matsuev, who will perform Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2 in A Major.

Tickets, priced from \$12.50 to \$52.50 are available by phone at 381-3300 and in person at the CSO Sales Office in Memorial Hall, 1229 Elm St., next to the Music Hall, Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Live ticketing is also available online at [www.cincinnatisymphony.org](http://www.cincinnatisymphony.org). Student tickets for CSO concerts are \$10 at the CSO box office, by phone, and online.

BY TONY MCCOSHEM

Contributing Writer

"8 Crazy Nights," Adam Sandler's new Hanukkah opus, essentially tries to be two different movies. On the one hand, it attempts to be an animated musical designed to tug at your heart-strings in the vain of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," but on the other hand it attempts to be the next in the line of Sandler's comedies filled with crude and sophomoric humor.

In this way, the film mirrors the struggle of its protagonist, Davey Stone, voiced by Sandler. Davey is the oft-characterized holiday grinch. He hates the holidays and wishes to make them miserable for everyone around him. Whitey Duvall (also voiced by Sandler), a diminutive friend from Davey's childhood, takes it upon himself to change Davey's reckless ways.

After a drunken ice sculpture crashing accident, Davey is forced to either help Whitey referee the town's recreational basketball leagues or face a hefty jail sentence. He reluctantly agrees to the referee service and is rather apathetic toward his new duties.

Davey's situation worsens when his trailer burns down and he is forced to move in with Whitey and his twin sister, Eleanore. Soon, under Whitey's influence at both work and home, Davey begins to shed his crass and confrontational exterior and open up to the world around him.

Whitey has hopes of receiving the town's annual commemorative patch for good citizenship. The film even spends some time following Whitey as he performs degrading day jobs in order to earn some extra cash for himself and his sister. Whitey's character is rather odd in that he is the size of a four-year-old, has two incredibly different-sized feet, and is about as hairy as a panda.

But Davey's road to ye olde emotional recovery becomes rocky



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.IMDB.COM

when a childhood flame reenters his life in the form of Jennifer (voice by Sandler's real life squeeze, Jackie Titone). Davey is even able to bond

has a consumerism inspired revelation. Upon exiting the mall, Davey is confronted with the decision of leaving town to avoid the law, or showing up at the town's holiday banquet and pleading Whitey's case for deserving the patch. Guess which one he picks?

"8 Crazy Nights" uses its animated nature to get away with things that it couldn't if it were a live action film. This includes both physical impossibilities (i.e. a deer pyramid) and jokes that would have trouble passing the censors were they actualized in the real world (i.e. poopsicle). On the whole, the animation is good. It is by no means Disney quality, but its sloppy nature only complements the story.

There are several musical interludes in the movie that are successful in rousing a few laughs. The lyrics are about as random and non-sequitor as most of Adam Sandler's songs, but they work well in the film. Also, a new version of his modern day holiday classic, "The Hanukkah Song," appears during the closing credits.

But in the end, it comes back to the above-mentioned conflict: is this meant to be a heart-warming

holiday flick for the little kiddies or just an animated version of "Billy Madison" or "Happy Gilmore." It is this conflict of essentially being two different movies at the same time that holds the movie back. It is as though the creators could not choose which to make, and this indecisiveness hurts the film. The difficulties of making an unsophisticated Sandler movie synthesized with a sentimental heart warmer are too great.

A lot of the humor is crude, but funny nonetheless. The movie achieves a comedic randomness that has helped make shows such as "The Simpsons" popular. Fans of past Sandler flicks will be pleased to hear the familiar voices of his pals Kevin Nealon, Rob Schneider and Jon Lovitz.

Despite what seem to be uncertain goals, "8 Crazy Nights" does deliver quite a few laughs. If you are a die-hard Sandler fan, see it in the theater. You'll probably enjoy it as long as you can handle its attempts at sentimentality. Otherwise, unless you feel moved by the holiday spirit, you may want to wait until it comes out on video.

## The Info

## '8 Crazy Nights'

Newswire Official Grade: B

Starring: Adam Sandler, Jackie Titone, Austin Stout

Rating: PG-13 for frequent crude and sexual humor, drinking and hard drug references

on the basketball court with Jennifer's son Benjamin, but is rebuked for his ultimately juvenile behavior. However, there is still an obvious attraction between the two.

Despite Davey's attempts at being an adult, he is haunted by the death of his parents in a car crash one snowy Hanukkah night during his childhood. A drunk Davey breaks into the local mini-mall and



## New Releases



The following discs are due for release on or before December 3 ...

3 Half Life (Planet Noise) ... Clarence Bucaro Sweet Corn (Burnside) ... Mariah Carey Charmbracelet (MonarC/Island) ... The Chitlin' Folks Did It Again (Hidden Agenda/Parasol) ... Mantler Satisfaction (Tomlab) ... The Shiners Sea Rock City (Planetary)

... all dates are tentative.

## Live Wires

Wednesday, December 4  
Mighty, Mighty Bosstones  
@ Bogart's

Wednesday, December 4  
Simple Plan  
@ Bogart's

Friday, December 6  
Readymade  
@ Mad Frog

Saturday, December 7  
Eightfeet  
@ Barrellhouse Brewing Co.

## — I N Y O U R E A R —



**Stroke 9**  
*Rip it Off*  
(Universal Records)

**GRADE: B**

**Beyond the little black backpack**

In 1999 the guys of Stroke 9 had a hit with "Little Black Backpack" and their album *Nasty Little Thoughts* went gold. They made their fans wait three long years for another album, saying they wanted to put together the best album possible and constantly delaying the release date. So now that it's finally here, I must say, *Rip It Off* is less than stellar. It starts off with "Latest Disaster" and "100 Girls," which are nothing special. They have the choppy guitar licks and loud, pounding drums typical of any pop-rock song. "Latest Disaster" is saved by the lyrics and concept of the song within a song, but "100 Girls" sounds like a 13-year-old boy wrote it with its trite rhymes: "100 girls or maybe more/Who left me passed out on the floor/I know it might be wrong/I had to write this song."

Though other songs on the album, such as "Kick Some Ass"

from the "Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back" soundtrack, follow the same formula as the first two tracks, there are some tracks that keep it from being a complete disaster.

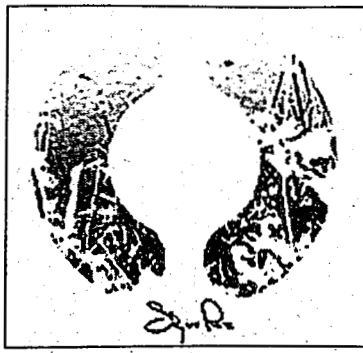
"Vacuum Bag" is the first of these songs you come across. "Don't hate me, don't regret me, don't ever forget me/Wherever you go, whatever you do, don't say I never loved you," lead singer Luke Esterkyn sings. You can almost feel his pain. This is one of many post-breakup songs on the album.

Another stand-out track is "Reject." Yet another post-breakup song, it's one whose emotions many people can relate to. Guitarist John McDermott is brilliant on this track, toning down his normally fast-paced playing to compliment the rich tones of the accompanying cello and violin.

Perhaps the best song on the album, "California," is unfortunately the last track. You might not get to it if you're as turned off by the first two songs as I was, but it's one you'll definitely want to listen to. There's not much happening in the song music-wise, but the lyrics are powerful and heartfelt: "Life's a funny thing and you can't bring yourself to face it if you want to."

Overall, *Rip It Off* is a decent album. Though it pales in comparison to Stroke 9's previous release, *Nasty Little Thoughts*, there are some quality songs on there making it worth listening to. You just have to get past the cheesy, unoriginal power-pop songs to get the stuff that's kinda great.

—Jen Ross  
Contributing Writer



**Sigur Ros**  
*()*  
(Alternative/Indie)

**GRADE: A**

**Not sure what kind of music it is, but it's good**

With a symbol for a title, no track listings, often intelligible, sometimes nonsense lyrics, and lush instrumentation that is at once both bizarre and beautiful, the Icelandic quartet of Sigur Ros achieve a sound all their own in *()*, their new album.

Sigur Ros, translated from Icelandic, means "victory rose," which perfectly exemplifies the peculiar strength and delicate splendor of their music. *()*, their fourth album, follows the successful and critically acclaimed *agaetis byrjun* and is a matured, more aware album that retains their eccentricities while building on new sounds to draw in new listeners.

From the abstract white images on their album cover to the moments of simple, quiet guitar and piano in their songs, Sigur Ros embodies the tranquil beauty of their homeland. They are a band content in stillness, at ease with silence and their songs

are lengthy experiences to dwell in. It is easy to imagine their songs as the soundtrack to a snowstorm, a rising river or a prayer service.

Perhaps the most distinctive sound in every song is the voice of singer Jon Por Birgisson. His glorious falsetto weaves in and out of calming strings and slow drumbeats, becoming less a human voice and more a perfect, wavering instrument. He sings in nonsense, lyrics peppered with Icelandic and English phrases. But Sigur Ros is not a band reknown for their soul-searching lyrics, but rather for their soul-enhancing sound, which Birgisson's voice carries and controls.

*()* is divided by 36 seconds of silence between the fourth and fifth tracks. This is an intentional split, as the first half is decidedly more upbeat, grandiose. Track 4 builds layers upon layers of sounds, breath-taking and easy to get lost in. The second half of the album is a little heavier, darker, with more emphasis on bass and drums. Birgisson's voice is stronger in the second half, as heard in the intense gradations over the thrumming background of track 6. The two halves make a balanced whole album, seen in the symbol of the title.

Sigur Ros does not rock. *()* will not put the guests at your next get-together in a party mood. However, their distinct blend of silence and music will aid in relaxation, even meditation, after a hard day of studying. Play *()* and let Sigur Ros take you to that other, calmer side where you can settle down and just be content in the stillness.

—Margaret Russo  
Contributing Writer



**O-Town**  
*O2*  
(J Records)

**GRADE: B+**

**Stocked full of those timeless love ballads**

O-Town, the well-known manufactured "boy-band" created by the hit TV series "Making the Band" has set out to shock the world with its sophomore album, *O2*. A strong follow-up to their debut, self-titled album *O-Town*, the music and lyrics on *O2* convey to the public that the boys of the group have matured and taken on the challenge of composing their own music.

In this second release, O-Town has thrown together a ton of genres, but it's heavy on the soft rock with tracks like "These Are the Days" and "From the Damage." And what would a boy-band album be without the timeless love ballads? The stories of love, loss and heartbreak? Don't you worry, this CD is full of them, with titles such as "I Showed Her," "Craving," and "Over Easy." the all-American heartthrobs are able to woo their young fans once again with lyrics such as, "Lying here on the couch/With my heart in my mouth/Realize you were right, I was wrong and.../I'm in pieces and bits/But that's nothing you can't fix/'Cause baby you're still my addiction," from the song "Craving."

The album also contains plenty of upbeat dancing tunes, such as "Favorite Girl" and "Make Her Say," both of which contain lyrics stolen from well-known, previously successful rap songs by artists such as Master P and 112. Regardless, the songs are laced with fun beats that are easy to dance to, and when paired with the lyrics, create catchy tunes for easy and enjoyable listening.

Though much of the music found on the album is typical of a boy-band, O-Town will probably find a great deal of success with the release of *O2*. It is an avenue for the five boys-turned-men to prove themselves and their musical talent not only to their adoring fans, but also to those who have mocked them. O-Town provides listeners with a vast array of musical styles in an effort to please fans of all genres. Many doubted the potential of O-Town because they were completely manufactured on a national TV show, but were surprised when their debut album found success and their level of popularity began to grow. Now, after they have been away from the music scene for a while, O-Town returns with a breath of fresh air that displays their maturity and musical talent.

—Molly Murphy  
Contributing Writer

Christmas is almost here, the semester is almost over and we here at Diversions would just like to remind you that it is now legal for Britney Spears to get drunk. Have a nice week.



**Jay-Z**  
*The Blueprint 2, The Gift & The Curse*  
(Def Jam)

**GRADE: B+**

**Jay-Z proves why he is the best rapper out there**

The thing about most Jay-Z albums is that no one ever really enjoys them the first time they hear them. His albums take a little while to wrap yourself around, but when they do, there is little question as to why most people believe him to be the most gifted MC today. His latest album *The Blueprint 2 The Gift & The Curse* solidifies this last claim, as the album is a strong double disc from the man that doesn't write any of his rhymes down.

The first Blueprint album was mostly Jay-Z, the only rapper to appear on the album was Eminem. On this album to make up for the lack of guests, Jay-Z brings an army of producers and guest performers

with him.

The great thing about Jay-Z is the he puts out that doesn't sound as nice as his past work, still sounds better than most other rappers. There are a lot of filler songs on the album that don't seem to sound as well when put up against better songs. The trick is that even these mediocre songs are more enjoyable to listen to than most hip-hop on the radio. This whole double CD is very easy to listen to and there aren't many double CD's that fall into that category.

Jay-Z's rhyming is so spontaneous and erratic; there is no telling where he will lead a verse. This is achieved by the fact he doesn't write anything down. He listens to the beat before going into the study, walks in and cuts a track. The rhyming he does is completely spontaneous and is the reason his songs are so entertaining.

In my humble opinion, the current king of rap would be a contest between Jay-Z and Eminem. This new album is a good example of why Jay-Z deserves to win that match. He has put out a good CD that blows the competition away in under a year from his last record. If anyone wanted to do the math, that's nine albums in the last six years; all of them good and this one is no exception. There aren't many artists, in any form of music, who can say that.

—Dan Cox  
Diversions Editor



# Are these characters heroes or outlaws?

SHOULD 'AMERICAN OUTLAWS' RIDE OFF INTO THE SUNSET OR STICK AROUND AND HAVE A DRINK AT THE LOCAL SALOON?

## Dan SAYS:

"American Outlaws" did a wonderful job of combining new techniques in action movies with the American-loved genre of Westerns.

We are presented with a group of individuals who would rather farm their land instead of fighting in the Civil War and they believe this wish has been granted to them at the start of the movie. They return to their homes to find them in a state of unrest. The transcontinental railroad is being built and the evil big businessman does not hesitate to burn down homes to gain the land needed for the railroad tracks.

The main character is Jesse James, the infamous train robber from this time period. The movie follows him and his gang as they fight against the railroad by stealing the railroad's money from banks and railroad stations.

This movie presents an enjoyable shoot-them-up action movie where the heroes are the good guys who were pushed past the edge by evil.

There are plenty of good explosions and fast action to keep your interest in the movie. The final scene may be the most exciting when we see our hero using a chain to hang down the side of a train and



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.NORCALMOVIES.COM

This multi-armed fighting machine racked up a body count, but does that make it a good movie?

shoot out the windows so he may escape.

This may be a little unrealistic, but it makes for a great watch. Of all the bullets that fly, no one is ever hurt that badly. The opening scene of James riding a horse through a Civil War battlefield to take out a nearby cannon is completely unbelievable and very enjoyable to watch.

The gang of train and bank robbers does the robbing in such a way so that their characters are never tarnished in the process. They

never shoot unless being shot at and no one, except for the evil railroad man, loses any money.

When was the last time a movie was made where the hero was never shot, never reloaded and always redeemed himself after every questionable action, such as giving the money they steal back to the poor farmers who have lost their farms? The answer is: not in quite a while. This movie is great fun to watch and keeps a dying genre alive and jumping.

## Jimmy SAYS:

This movie is a perfect example of the movie industry learning from their mistakes and then regressing.

There are too many examples of worn-out story ideas that had been eliminated from most movies that all formed together to form one giant clichéd movie. None of the supposed heroes ever have to reload their weapons, worry about being shot at and the amount of horrible one-liners in the movie is almost amusing.

I feel obligated to inform everyone that Jesse James was not some noble hero out to save poor defenseless farmers. He did not give the money away and he definitely did not spare as many lives as the movie portrays. These men are portrayed as heroes when in fact they were nothing more than killers.

I also think that a movie needs to be somewhat believable. Collin Farrell riding a horse through a Civil War battlefield and not getting shot and Farrell running along the side of a train shooting out windows are just a few examples of the unbelievable scenes in this movie.

Something that was so enjoy-

able about old western movies is that it was easy to relate to the hero. They were everyday type people who were put into a bad situation beyond their control. It's impossible to see any of these characters in the real world, unless you think you can dodge bullets and shoot a six-shooter more than a dozen times without reloading.

The most clichéd moment in the movie is when the evil railroad man blows up Farrell's home with his dear mother inside. The two James brothers rush home and discover their home still intact and breathe a sigh of relief just as the house is blown to hell. Their mother stumbles out into the brothers outstretched arms and tells the two brothers to look after each other.

This type of movie is just boring to watch. There is no excitement because nothing happens that can't be seen coming from a mile away. This is what happens when the movie industry only uses tired over used ideas to make a film.

# Love, loss and space stations

GEORGE CLOONEY MUST USE A PLETHORA OF EMOTIONS IN 'SOLARIS' AS HE DEALS WITH HIS SITUATION

## BY CHUCK SAMBUCHINO

Contributing Writer

"Solaris" is the perfect hybrid of sci-fi and drama. More than anything, it could be considered a tribute to old-fashioned space films where you didn't need explosions and aliens to have a great movie.

The story, set in the future, begins with Chris Kelvin (George Clooney) sitting alone on a bed watching rain pour down his window. Through subtle hints, we quickly learn that he is a psychiatrist who is still coming out of depression brought about by his wife's death.

Two men arrive at his door and present him with a video message from a friend of his who is part of a space crew orbiting the world of Solaris. The video pleads for Chris to come onboard and lend his psy-

chological expertise to help the crew. Confused and skeptical, he agrees.

Once aboard the ship, Chris finds his friend has committed suicide, and the other two crew members are evasive and unresponsive to discuss whatever it is that's happening to the ship.

What's happening, as he finds out soon after he falls asleep, is that the planet Solaris is alive in nature

and giving crew members "visitors" from their subconscious memories. For Chris, it is his dead wife, Rhea (Natascha McElhone).

The planet creates living mental projections for

its orbiters, some more docile than others.

At first, Chris rejects this new projection of his wife, but when he discovers that he can't get rid of her one way or the other, he stops fighting and becomes enamored with her all over again, longing for their lost relationship.

As the planet begins to grow in mass and pull the dormant station dangerously close, the crew must evacuate. Chris must choose who he trusts on the ship and whether he's ready to leave the mirror image of his wife.

Director and screenwriter Steven Soderbergh has been working non-stop for the past few years in delivering great movies ("Erin Brockovich," "Ocean's 11," "Traffic") and he doesn't disappoint here.

"Solaris" was originally made into a movie by Russian filmmakers in 1972. It attempted to duplicate the epic scope that made "2001" so mystifying. Whether it succeeded or not is still being argued.

Either way, remaking a 30-year-old Russian classic is a gutsy move. The main plot of this remake is very similar to the original.

The story works well because it never lets you clearly understand what's going on. It rather presents it through a translucent window.

The movie is tense when it needs to be and deep throughout. Clues are leaked slow enough to keep your eyes peeled but fast enough not to make them tired.

Clooney, often alone in the movie, is very convincing as Chris. When his wife appears, he goes



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.NORCALMOVIES.COM

George Clooney has to deal with the return of his dead wife and all the emotions that come with it.

through every emotion in the book in dealing with the situation, from denial and fright to love and acceptance.

The guilt that plagues him over his wife is like a cloud, blurring his decision to leave when, to an outsider, it seems imperative.

Numerous scenes are painted with a creepy detached score by Cliff Martinez, but many times, the eerie feeling comes from the complete absence of music.

"Solaris" takes the genre known for spaceships and aliens beyond

those boundaries. The direction is successful in sustaining an awe for longer than the four-second average.

Like Kubrick's grand effort, it moves a bit slow at times, but there's method in Soderbergh's madness and at this point, filmgoers should follow his madness anywhere.

## The Info

### "Solaris"

**Newsweek Official Grade: B**

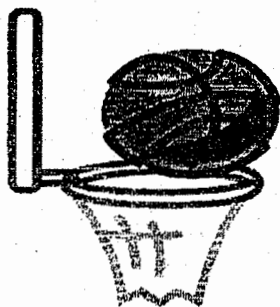
**Starring:** George Clooney, Natascha McElhone, Jeremy Davies

**Rating:** PG-13 on appeal for sexuality/nudity, brief language and thematic elements



## STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Brought to you by the Student Senate Student Relations Committee



### DO YOU WANT TO SEE THE CROSSTOWN SHOOTOUT FOR FREE?

Saturday, December 7th-  
@ O'Connor Sports Center  
Doors open @ 3:30 p.m. - Game time @ 4:00 p.m.

Free Food and Drinks  
Beer Garden & Cash bar (21+W/ID)  
\$2.00 beers \$1.50 for Seniors  
Halftime show featuring Frisbee Dog

#### Student Affairs Committee Hard at Work

We would like to recognize the hard work of the Senate Student Affairs Committee on responding to student complaints regarding the closure of the Kuhlman Computer Lab. We are happy to announce that the computer lab hours have been restored! Great job!

#### All Welcome!

Senate meetings are held Monday's @ 3 p.m. on the second floor of the GSC.

SAC meetings are held Tuesday's @ 3 p.m. on the second floor of the GSC.

We welcome any and all students to attend both of these meetings and meet your senators and SAC'ers.

To contact the Student Government Association, call Joanie @ x3094.

Great job to the Student Activities Council on a great Homecoming. With well planned events and an exciting dance, this was an unforgettable Homecoming. Special thanks to Homecoming chairs Kelly Apking and Katherine Packard for all of their hard work!

#### CLOCK CONFUSION?

ARE YOU BOTHERED BY THE FACT THAT EVERY CLOCK ON THIS CAMPUS IS DIFFERENT? WELL, SENATOR JAY ARNS IS ALSO FED UP AND IS WORKING TO CORRECT THE CLOCK CONFUSION. HE CAN BE REACHED @ X 3094 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Congratulations Senator**  
**Richard Fajardo!**  
Congratulations to first year student Richard Fajardo on his appointment to Student Senate. Richard will serve on the Community Affairs Committee and is looking forward to "getting things done on campus." All of Student Government would like to welcome Richard and feel that he will be an asset to the entire

#### Come Have Lunch With Us

Do you have ideas or concerns you would like to express to the SGA? If so, come have lunch with SGA President Michael McBride, Legislative Vice President Kelly Borchers, and Administrative Vice President Eric Rhodes on Friday, December 13 at 1:30. To register or to get more details call William Buckley (office hours Tuesday and Thursday form 1-2) at 3094.

## For Rent

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Just a note to all those interested in advertising in the classifieds!

The semester is ending and we only have one more issue before break. If you are interested in placing an ad for next semester, email it to Renee at xuclassad@hotmail.com before Dec. 17 2002. All phone messages will be checked after break, which ends on Jan 13 2003. Please do not call until closer to Jan. 13 the space for the messages is limited.



**WEDNESDAY**

December 4

**Jen Putnam and Liz Boneau.** Look at these two fine young ladies. I have the privilege of working with them, but only for another week, because they will not be writing for the paper come next semester. I guess I will just have to find new people to harass every Tuesday evening. We shared a lot of laughs this year, but nothing lasts forever... except Dick Clark's life and herpes.

Coffee Hour celebrates the Xavier Players today at 3:30 p.m. in the Rehearsal Room of the G-Spot Theater. Mmmm... overly melodramatic thespians drinking java. I might go to this just to see if they break into song about how gosh-darn good the coffee is.

Xavier's Muslim Student Association is sponsoring a celebration of interfaith holidays at 7 p.m. in Kelley Auditorium. Representatives from various religions will speak about the holidays they celebrate during this time of year. I wonder if Frank Costanza will be there to talk about Festivus. Tickets are \$2 in advance or at the door, and proceeds will go to benefit Alternative Spring Break.

If you are one of those students who never has any homework to do (by the way, I hate you), then go to the G-Spot tonight to watch "A Christmas Story" and decorate ornaments. There is nothing like celebrating the holidays the same way that people in nursing homes do.

**Calendar City**

By Jim Murphy To place an item in the calendar, mail to [newsire\\_calendar@yahoo.com](mailto:newsire_calendar@yahoo.com) or ML2129.

**THURSDAY**

December 5

Apparently, today is Bathtub Party Day. What the hell is this? The only time I have ever related these two words is when I have been to parties where they have the keg in a bathtub. So grab some soap on a rope and have a blast.

If you're into that hip-hop jazz type stuff, check out Medeski, Martin and Wood at 8 p.m. at Bogart's. I think these guys were runners-up for last year's Most Creative Band Name award.

**FRIDAY**

December 6

A plagiarism workshop will be held in the library at 1:30 p.m. The main topics will be the detection and prevention of plagiarism. This just in: the workshop is being hosted by Milli Vanilli.

The University Singers hold their annual winter concert at 7 p.m. in the G-Spot Theater, with a repeat performance at the same time on Saturday. Come watch them prance with merriment, sing with glee, and leave the audience thinking "Now I know why I didn't join Singers."



So these two blondes walk into a bar...

BACCHUS is sponsoring a night at the movies at 7:30 p.m. Students should meet at Kelley Auditorium. For \$3, you can eat all the pizza you want, and get a ticket good for any movie at Newport on the River. Designated drivers are needed for those who may have too much Sprite. Those students who opt to go out and drink tonight should chastise themselves, and force themselves not to have a good time.

**SATURDAY**

December 7

Today is the day of the "big game." That's right, Xavier's women's basketball team takes on Central Connecticut State at 1 p.m. in the Cintas Center. I think the men have a game today too, but who pays attention to them, anyway?

Well, I guess I was right. The men's basketball team plays Cincinnati in the Crosstown Shootout at 4 p.m.

X-Treme Fans is going all out for this one by sponsoring a viewing of the game on a big screen projector in O'Connor. Doors are open at 3:30 p.m. There will be free food, beer for \$1 for those who are of age, and prizes galore. There will also be a halftime half-court shot worth \$500, and apparently a frisbee dog will be there to entertain people as well. Let's see here: beer, college basketball, frisbee dog... throw a few strippers in there, and I can die a happy man.

RSA is sponsoring Bingo tonight in O'Connor at 9:30 p.m. Prizes such as Playstations and DVD players will be awarded to those who are lucky enough to win. I'd better win this year, or else I will see to it Steve Weissenburger gets fed to a pack of hungry wolves.

**SUNDAY**

December 8

The women's basketball team comes at you again at 1 p.m. as they battle either Michigan or St. Louis in the 'Tas. The first 50 students to attend will get a sticker that says "Xavier has a women's basketball team too, dumbass."

Today also happens to be "Most Boring Celebrities of the Year" Day. Do they actually give out awards for this? Because I have a few of my own to give out. For TV, the award goes to Larry King. For movies, Christopher Walken takes the cake. In the music world, I award the prize to Justin Timberlake for being a complete tool. There is a tie in the wide world of sports between Art Modell and Bud Selig. Those are my picks. If you disagree, let me know about it, and maybe I will print the best reader responses next week.

**MONDAY**

December 9

The men's basketball team faces Miami of Ohio tonight at 7 p.m. in the 'Tas. I wonder if J. Crew makes their uniforms.

Speaking of Miami University, I ran into one of my friends from there over the long weekend, and he told me he wanted a retraction of the comment I made some issues ago when I ended it with "And then there were taxes... the end." I was under the impression that this was from the Simpsons, but he informed me that he was the author of this quote, and wanted credit for it. There you go, T.J., I hope you're happy now.

**TUESDAY**

December 10

Not much is happening today, but join me next week for "Chris Ortman Appreciation Week." Should be a good time. Murphout.

**Classifieds**

For classifieds info call Renee at 745-3561 or e-mail her at [XUCLASSAD@hotmail.com](mailto:XUCLASSAD@hotmail.com)

**Help Wanted**

Tellers of Hyde Park is seeking friendly hard-working individuals interested in Server Assistant and Host positions. Apply Monday-Friday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at 2710 Erie Ave. Weekends are a must. No phone calls please.

Fraternities, Sororities, Clubs and Student Groups. Earn \$1,000-\$2,000 this semester with a proven Campus Fundraiser. Three hour fundraising event. Our programs make fundraising easy with no risk. Fundraising dates are filling quickly, so get with the program! It works. Contact Campus Fundraiser at (888) 923-3238, or visit [www.campusfundraiser.com](http://www.campusfundraiser.com).

Bright, energetic "people person" for a busy, upbeat chiropractor's office, in Mt. Adams, serving high caliber clientele in the wellness mode. Work five days per week, 28-32 hrs, salary commensurate with experience, on-going training and/or outreach provided. Phone: 513-723-1190; fax: 513-723-1890; or e-mail: [willtickel@aol.com](mailto:willtickel@aol.com).

Pasta Al Dente, Hyde Park's most unique and award-winning restaurant, now hiring for PT/FT PM servers, hosts and bartenders.

Perfect for students looking for flexible scheduling, casual atmosphere, and short shifts. Please call Jay 321-7400 to set up interview between 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Mon and Fri.

Part-time Employment! Largest mortgage broker in Southern Ohio, offices in Blue Ash, is hiring telemarketers for PT employment. Experience preferred, but will train. Selling involved. Starting at \$9/hr plus bonus and commission. Individuals have the potential to make well over hourly rate. Mon- Thurs, 5 p.m.-9 p.m., Satur 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Contact Abby Cantrell at (513) 326-6960.

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Childcare needed for our 18-month and 4-year-old in our Terrace Park home. Help is needed on Fridays, 8 p.m. to 5 p.m. Willing to split the day between two people. Call 831-5255

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Apartment for rent, available late December. 2BR, water included, large deck, garage, free onsite laundry. Great location in Hyde Park. 3312 Monteith. \$950/mo. Call 317-3675 after 9pm.

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